(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

Penalty on banks disbursing less loans

†2859. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to impose penalty on the banks disbursing loans below the prescribed targets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Strike against merger of banks

†2860. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Banks were on country-wide strike to protest against merger of banks and foreign investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The Employees 'Union and Officers' Associations of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) were on strike on 22nd March 2005 in protest against merger and acquisition of PSBs and foreign Banks/Institutions/Investors taking over Indian banks.

(d) While the Government recognizes the right of the Officers' and Employees' Associations of PSBs to protest against any proposal of their managements within the constitutional framework, any proposal for consolidation by way of merger etc. of one nationalized bank with another nationalized bank has to come from their managements with Government

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.